



In Cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Iowa Field Office · 210 Walnut Street Ste 833 · Des Moines IA 50309 · (515) 284-4340 · (800)772-0825
fax (515) 284-4342 or (800) 719-1794 · www.nass.usda.gov

Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Hired Workers Up 2 Percent, Wage Rates up 1 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 785,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2009, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 595,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 190,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.93 per hour during the January 2009 reference week, up 12 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.96 per hour, up 29 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$10.27 per hour compared with \$10.18 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.08 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

Farm Labor: Employment, Wage Rates, and Hired Workers, Regional and U.S.

Year and Month			Hired Workers ¹			
	Hired Workers	Hours Worked	Wage Rates for Type of Worker			
			Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock	All Hired Workers
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>	<i>----- Dollars per Hour -----</i>			
<u>CORN BELT II REGION²</u>						
<u>2007</u>						
January ³						
April	21	38.8	9.60	10.46	10.00	10.63
July	24	38.0	9.44	11.37	10.40	10.90
October	23	41.0	10.69	10.90	10.80	11.25
<u>2008</u>						
January	27	36.8	11.38	10.82	10.90	11.42
April	21	38.2	10.65	12.20	11.50	11.88
July	28	35.6	10.29	9.23	9.90	10.25
October	32	37.0	10.62	11.37	10.90	11.50
<u>2009</u>						
January	20	34.0	11.06	11.27	11.20	11.40
<u>UNITED STATES</u>						
<u>2007</u>						
January ³						
April	736	40.7	9.35	9.59	9.42	10.20
July	843	41.4	9.24	9.73	9.37	9.99
October	817	42.2	9.62	10.02	9.73	10.38
<u>2008</u>						
January	594	38.4	9.67	10.18	9.88	10.81
April	700	40.8	9.65	10.24	9.84	10.57
July	828	40.5	9.66	9.98	9.74	10.34
October	804	41.4	10.05	10.21	10.09	10.70
<u>2009</u>						
January	595	38.3	9.96	10.27	10.08	10.93

¹ Includes all workers and methods of pay except those workers paid by piece rate. ² Corn Belt II Region: Iowa, Missouri ³ Because of budget constraints, NASS did not conduct the January Agricultural Labor Survey, which provides the data for the report.